

# 2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

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## 1. Department or Agency

Department of the Interior

## 2. Fiscal Year

2018

## 3. Committee or Subcommittee

Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

## 3b. GSA Committee No.

1537

## 4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

## 5. Current Charter

12/04/2017

## 6. Expected Renewal Date

12/04/2019

## 7. Expected Term Date

## 8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

## 8b. Specific Termination Authority

## 8c. Actual Term Date

## 9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

## 10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

## 10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

## 11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

## 12. Specific Establishment Authority

16 U.S.C. 3115 (1988)

## 13. Effective Date

12/02/1980

## 14. Committee Type

Continuing

## 14c. Presidential?

No

## 15. Description of Committee Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

## 16a. Total Number of Reports 1

## 16b. Report Date Report Title

03/21/2018

R8 - NWARAC 2017 Annual Report (Signed)

## Number of Committee Reports Listed: 1

## 17a. Open 2 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 2

## Meetings and Dates

### Purpose

The Council met to consider 10 proposals to change hunting and trapping regulations for Federal public lands in the Northwest Arctic region of Alaska. During the discussion on proposals, the Council heard comments from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Federal agencies, and members of the public who shared oral testimony and written comments. The Council further developed the issues it would like to include in its FY 2017 annual report, as provided for in Section 805 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. The Council received reports on fish and wildlife populations from State and Federal managers, law enforcement, and an environmental non-governmental organization. There was also a presentation of a service award from the Federal Subsistence Board recognizing the 7 years of service of Calvin D. Moto, Sr., first appointed to the Council in 2003.

The Council met to hear the call for proposals to change fishing and shellfish regulations for Federal public lands in the Northwest Arctic Region of Alaska. The Council was updated on the Fisheries Resource Monitoring and Partners programs. The Council further developed issues it would like to include in its Final FY 2017 annual report to the Federal Subsistence Board, as provided for in Section 805 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. The Council also received reports on fish and wildlife populations from Tribal, State, and Federal managers.

### Start

### End

10/26/2017 - 10/27/2017

02/28/2018 - 03/01/2018

**Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 2**

	<b>Current FY</b>	<b>Next FY</b>
<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$94,999.00	\$97,849.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$6,998.00	\$7,208.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$7,976.00	\$8,215.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$17,500.00	\$18,025.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$127,473.00	\$131,297.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	0.90	0.90

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

The Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council typically holds two meetings a year to discuss recommendations they plan to make to the Federal Subsistence Board. Meetings are open to the public to provide residents, tribal entities, organizations, and agencies opportunity to participate in the discussions.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

Members broadly represent geographic, cultural, user, and gender diversity present within the region. This is ensured through a rigorous outreach/recruitment effort and a thorough evaluation and recommendation process. Applicants are evaluated according to the following criteria: they must be a resident of the region in which they applied; have extensive knowledge of the region's fish and wildlife resources; have extensive knowledge of the region's subsistence uses, customs, and traditions; have extensive knowledge of the region's sport, commercial, and other nonsubsistence uses; and have evident leadership and communication skills. The applicants, their references, and key contacts within the region are interviewed by panels of Federal agency staff. These panels then rate and rank the applicants according to standards set by the Board. This information is considered by the Interagency Staff Committee which makes its recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board. The Board then meets to review the applicants and make its recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture. The Board recommendations balance points of view represented on the Council with the Council's function, which is to advise the Board on matters pertaining to subsistence. The Board also considers other factors such as geographic representation within the regions. The Secretaries must concur regarding appointments. The entire process requires approximately 9 months to complete.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

Meetings usually occur at least twice each calendar year with additional meetings as needed to address particular issues. The Council must meet at least twice a year to address the fisheries and wildlife regulatory cycles. The Council makes recommendations for both submitted regulatory proposals as well as Council-developed proposals. Meetings are held in the region so residents of the region have an opportunity to attend them and provide public testimony and local knowledge of the resources for proposed subsistence hunting, trapping, and fishing regulations.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

The Alaska National Interests Lands Conservation Act established the Regional Councils as the public forum for the expression of views and information originating from the local communities within the region, and to provide recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board regarding management of fish and wildlife resources for subsistence uses on Federal public lands. The members of the Regional Advisory Council and the public participants provide the expertise of subsistence people to the process of forming regulations that govern their lives and to the management of Federal lands they use for subsistence purposes. The Regional Advisory Council is a vital link between the Federal Subsistence Board and the rural residents whose lives the Board's decisions affect.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**

Not applicable - all meetings are open to the public.

**21. Remarks**

N/A

**Designated Federal Officer**

Zachary Stevenson Subsistence Council Coordinator

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Member Designation</b>
Commack, Louie	12/03/2015	12/02/2020	Subsistence	Representative Member
Kramer, Michael	12/03/2010	12/02/2019	Subsistence	Representative Member
Lee, Raymond	12/11/2017	12/02/2020	Subsistence	Representative Member
Loon, Hannah	12/03/2011	12/02/2019	Subsistence	Representative Member
Mitchell, Enoch	03/13/2014	12/02/2019	Subsistence	Representative Member
Moto, Beverly	12/03/2016	12/02/2019	Subsistence	Representative Member
Moto, Calvin	01/04/2013	12/02/2018	Subsistence	Representative Member
Shiedt, Enoch	12/03/2009	12/02/2018	Subsistence	Representative Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 8**

## **Narrative Description**

Since Congress passed the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act in 1980, Title VIII has provided for the continuation of subsistence uses of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands by rural residents in Alaska. Title VIII required the creation of Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils to enable rural residents to have a meaningful role in Federal subsistence management. The Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture subsequently established the Federal Subsistence Management Program. The Program is a multi-agency effort that includes the Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the USDA Forest Service. These agencies manage the Federal public lands where subsistence activities take place, including waters running through or next to Federal public lands and with limited marine jurisdiction. The Secretaries delegated management authority for subsistence uses in Alaska to the Federal Subsistence Board, which is comprised of the regional directors of the five Federal public land managers in Alaska and a representative appointed by the Secretaries to serve as Chair. The Board is the decisionmaking body that oversees the Federal Subsistence Management Program. The ten Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils provide recommendations and information to the Board, review policies and management plans, provide a public forum, develop regulatory proposals for subsistence use of fish and wildlife, evaluate current and anticipated subsistence needs, and perform other duties required by the Board. The Councils make recommendations to the Board regarding proposed changes to fish and wildlife regulations; management plans; policies, standards, and guidelines; determinations of rural status; subsistence use allocations; and other matters related to subsistence take of fish and wildlife. The Councils meet at least twice a year. Council chairs attend at least two Board meetings a year to present the recommendations of their Councils and provide knowledge and advice to the Board.

## **What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Outcome Comments

The Regional Advisory Council provides recommendations and information to the Board, reviews policies and management plans, provides a public forum, develops proposals, evaluates current and anticipated subsistence needs, appoints members to the National Park Service subsistence resource commissions, and performs other duties required by the Board. The Council makes recommendations to the Board regarding proposed changes to fish and wildlife regulations; management plans; policies, standards, and guidelines; determinations of customary and traditional use of subsistence resources; fisheries research projects; determinations of rural status; subsistence use allocations; and other matters related to subsistence take of fish and wildlife. The Council meets at least twice a year; however, individual members may represent the Board at any time to serve on a committee or working group. Council chairs attend at least two Board meetings a year to present the recommendations of the Council and provide knowledge and advice to the Board. At this time the Council does not have a Chair as the person serving in that position recently passed away.

### What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Cost Savings Comments

Regional Advisory Council members are all volunteers. They provide expert knowledge and advice to the Federal Subsistence Board which the Board cannot otherwise obtain. Without the Council, the Program would need to greatly increase staff and research funding. The researchers would then need to seek information from the very people, or similar people, who now make up the Council. The Board adopts a preponderance of the Council's recommendations, which may lower resource management costs.

**What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?**

### **Number of Recommendations Comments**

During the Fall 2017 Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Meeting, the Council recommended the Federal Subsistence Board adopt 5 proposals (WP18-41, WP18-43, WP18-44, WP18-46, and WP18-51), and reject 3 proposals (WP18-32, WP18-45, and W18-48/49). The Council also voted to take no action on 2 proposals (WP18-42 and WP18-47). The Council also voted to write a letter to the agencies describing their objections to the Ambler Mine Road. Additionally, the Council voted to reappoint Enoch Attamuk Shiedt, Sr. and Alex Whiting to the Cape Krusenstern Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) and Murphy Custer, Louie A. Commack, Jr., and Rosa Horner to the Upper Kobuk Valley SRC. The Council also reappointed Louie A. Commack, Jr. to the Gates of the Arctic (GAAR) SRC. During the Winter 2018 Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Meeting, the Council voted to approve the minutes for the Fall 2017 meeting. Addressing the reconsideration of Wildlife Proposal WP18-46/47, the Council voted to support a partial closure as described in WSA 17-03 and Map 1 (illustrating the area of Federal public lands closed to caribou hunting except by federally qualified subsistence users in 2017/18 resulting from Wildlife Special Action 17-03), provided in the supplemental for the RAC meeting.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?**

90%

### **% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

ANILCA, Title VIII, Section 805(c) requires the Federal Subsistence Board to consider and adopt the report and recommendations of the Regional Advisory Council concerning the taking of wildlife within the region for subsistence on public lands. The Board may choose not to follow a recommendation only if it determines the recommendation is not supported by substantial evidence, violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife conservation, or would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs. Under this constraint, the Board generally adopts the Council's recommendations.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

0%

### **% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

ANILCA, Title VIII, Section 805(c) requires the Federal Subsistence Board to consider and

adopt the report and recommendations of the Regional Advisory Council concerning the taking of wildlife within the region for subsistence on public lands. The Board may choose not to follow a recommendation only if it determines the recommendation is not supported by substantial evidence, violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife conservation, or would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs. Under this constraint, the Board generally adopts the Council's recommendations.

**Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

**Agency Feedback Comments**

ANILCA, Title VIII, Section 805(c) requires the Federal Subsistence Board (acting for the Secretary) to inform the Regional Advisory Council when the Board chooses not to adopt a Council recommendation concerning the taking of fish and wildlife on the public lands within the region for subsistence uses. The Board has expanded this to include reporting on those Council recommendations it does adopt and those it adopts with modification. These actions and their justifications are written in what is referred to as the "805(c) Letter." The Board considers recommendations in the Council's annual report and makes a formal reply. Board decisions regarding other matters for which the Council makes recommendations are reported to the Council in a less formal manner by the Subsistence Regional Coordinator or the Council chair.

**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Action Comments**

New subsistence wildlife regulations frequently require the managing agencies to reprioritize staff and other resources. Other recommendations accepted by the Federal Subsistence Board may also require reallocation of agency funds. The Council also makes recommendations regarding fisheries information needs within the region and for annual funding for fisheries research projects related to those needs.

**Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?**

No

**Grant Review Comments**

Not Applicable

**How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?**

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Access Comments**

The Council members contact the DFO for any information they want either by email, using the toll free number, or calling his cell phone. The Council members who have access to the website usually get their information there. Because not all members have computers, the DFO is often contacted for information.